

Mayor Mallory's Message for the Week, October 2, 2006

Focusing on Education is one key to improving Cincinnati

Education is the key to solving so many of the challenges that we face as a city. While the city has no direct oversight of our school system, we must do everything we can to support the Superintendent, the School Board, and all of our passionate and committed teachers. However, there is a lot that we can do to support the efforts of the education community and ensure that every child in Cincinnati is receiving the support and development necessary to ensure that they can take advantage of their educational opportunities.

There is a direct connection between a strong school system and the overall vitality and image of our city. Developing a talented and job ready workforce will help us attract jobs and grow our economy. Ensuring that students have a first class education opens the door to a rewarding career. If more youth have quality job opportunities, fewer will choose criminal activity. By improving our education system, we can make Cincinnati a cleaner, safer, and more economically vibrant community.

Recently, Cincinnati has launched an exciting new initiative called Strive that will bring together all of the educational resources in our region to focus on the development of every child in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky from birth through college and into a meaningful career. Strive is a partnership between the education community, the business community, area non-profits, and the cities of Cincinnati, Covington, and Newport. This partnership recognizes the link between providing a strong education and creating a strong city.

Strive has five simple but ambitious goals:

Every student will:

- Be **Prepared** for school in early childhood education
- Be **Supported** inside and outside the school walls
- **Succeed** Academically
- **Enroll** in college: 2-year, 4-year or job training
- **Graduate** and enter a career

Strive focuses not only on schools and educational programs, but also on the programs and resources that support a child's development outside of the classroom. No matter how great the schools are, our students will not succeed if they do not receive the help and support to make sure they are ready to learn.

I have launched several initiatives designed to provide this type of support, including my Mentoring Initiative to encourage city employees to become mentors, the Student Listening Tour to recognize importance of the views and opinions of youth and empower them, a summer youth job fair, attended by over 2,000 area young people, and an initiative to combat childhood hunger by increasing the number of youth who receive meals in the summer. It is imperative that we continue to focus on supporting our youth and making sure that we give them all of the resources that they need to achieve in life.

You can learn more about Strive and how you can get involved in improving education in our region by visiting: www.strivetogether.com